

REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment is filed in response to the Advisory Office Action dated October 2, 2008. A Request For Continued Examination (RCE) is submitted herewith along with the Amendment In Response To Final Office Action dated September 15, 2008. A Petition for a one-month extension of time extending the period of response to October 24, 2008 is filed herewith.

Claim 1

The Examiner characterizes paragraph [0032] of Schultz as teaching outputting the recited metadata (Claim 1). Specifically, the Examiner argues that "only after all of the corner cases are simulated is the output presented. Thus, the results generated indicate whether the design has been exhaustively analyzed for all corners/modes." Applicant respectfully traverses this characterization.

Applicant respectfully notes that paragraph [0033] of Schultz teaches that:

[t]he multipass analysis of step 218 comprises comparing the results of the various corner cases to generate the change in values from one corner case to another. Those components or nodes with high differences may indicate that they are particularly susceptible to potential problems.

As taught by paragraph [0032] of Schultz, step 220 saves the comparisons performed by step 218. Thus, step 220 saves the changes in values at a node. Applicant respectfully submits that these changes in values do not disclose or suggest "whether the design has been exhaustively analyzed for a particular corner/mode". Therefore, Applicant requests further reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1.

Claim 33

The Examiner also characterizes paragraphs [0032] and [0040] of Schultz as teaching merging desired information regarding a predetermined set of modes/corners before merging other information (Claim 33). Specifically, the Examiner argues that "the desired information can be analyzed, merged and displayed first. For example, in paragraph [0040], the results from the area of interest are shown first, and then analysis continues for other areas." Applicant respectfully traverses this characterization.

Paragraph [0040] teaches that:

[t]he results display of step 408 comprises choosing an area of interest in step 410, choosing the results analysis to display in step 412 and displaying the results graphically in step 414. If another set of results is requested for the area of interest in step 416, the step 412 of choosing results to display is executed. If no more results are requested in step 416, another area of interest may be desired in step 418 and the step 410 of choosing an area of interest is repeated. If no other areas of interest are desired in step 418, the process terminates in step 420.

FIGURE 4, as described in paragraph [0040], teaches details of the results display step 408. Notably, the results display step 408 follows the multipass static timing analysis step 404 and the area of interest definition step 406. Therefore, all static timing analysis is complete by the time step 408 is performed.

Paragraphs [0032] and [0033] teach the details of the multipass static timing analysis step 404 (i.e. steps 210-220). Paragraph [0032] teaches that:

The multipass timing analysis of step 204 comprises defining all of the corner cases for analysis in step 210, performing the static timing analysis for a particular corner case in step 212, saving the results in step 214, and running another corner case in step 216. If the corner cases are completed in step 216, a multipass analysis is performed in step 218 and saved in step 220.

As taught by paragraph [0033] of Schultz (see above), the multipass analysis of step 218 comprises comparing the results of the various corner cases to generate the change in values from one corner case to another. Thus, step 220 saves the changes in values at a node.

Applicant respectfully submits that determining which area of interest to display first, second, etc. does not disclose or suggest merging desired information regarding a predetermined set of modes/corners before merging other information. Therefore, Applicant requests further reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 33.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 3-9, 12-19, 25, 27-30, 32-43, 45, 47-53, 55-62, 64-70, 72-78, and 83-96 are pending in the present application. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at 408-451-5907 to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,


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